



NOAA
FISHERIES

SWFSC

5.1 Review Process for Highly Migratory Species Stock Assessments

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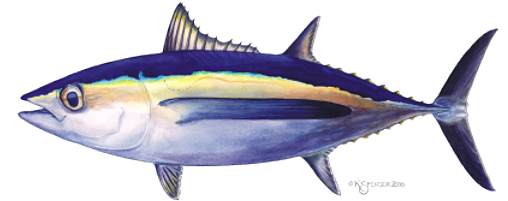
Theme III

Does the Center, in conjunction with other entities, have an adequate peer review process?

- a. What is the relative role of Center and Council's SSC in organizing and conducting peer review?
- b. Are TORs for assessment reviews clear and well-defined prior to assessment? Are they focused on key issues needing review and key, answerable questions? Are they appropriately broad?
- c. Are major data collection programs and modeling methods reviewed separately from the final assessment review?
- d. Are there clear protocols for considering and including input from scientists not on the assessment team?
- e. Does the review process achieve an appropriate balance between transparency, thoroughness, and throughput?

Outline

- HMS fisheries management in the Pacific
 - International stocks
 - Depends on jurisdiction and organization
 - Technical review & review for management purposes
- Examples
 - Pacific bluefin tuna (“Northern stocks”)
 - North Pacific blue shark (“non-Northern stocks”)
- Strengths, Challenges, and Strategies

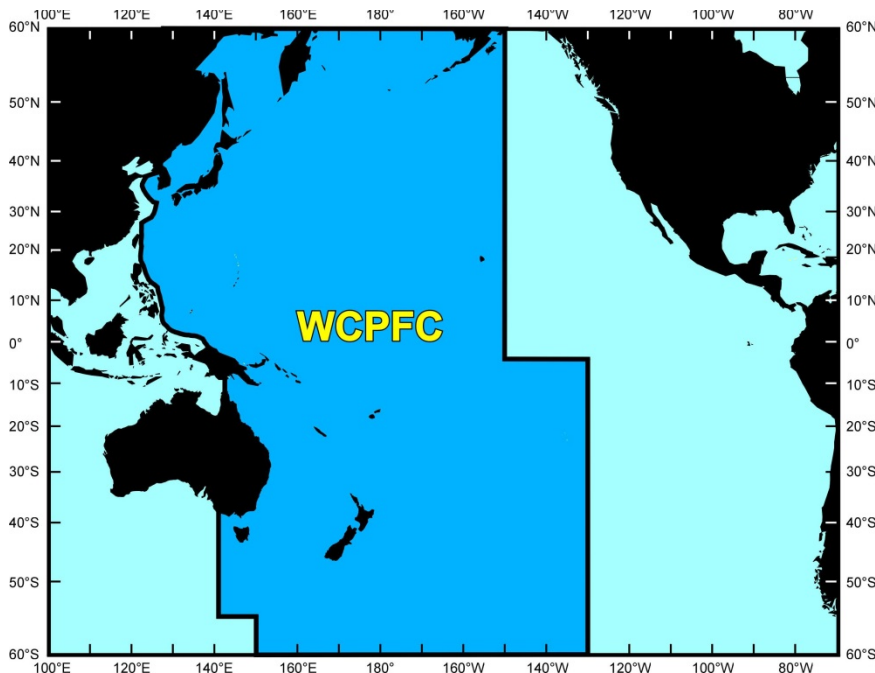


HMS Fisheries and their Management

- HMS range throughout vast areas of the Pacific Ocean
- There is no single, pan-Pacific organization that manages all HMS throughout their ranges
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

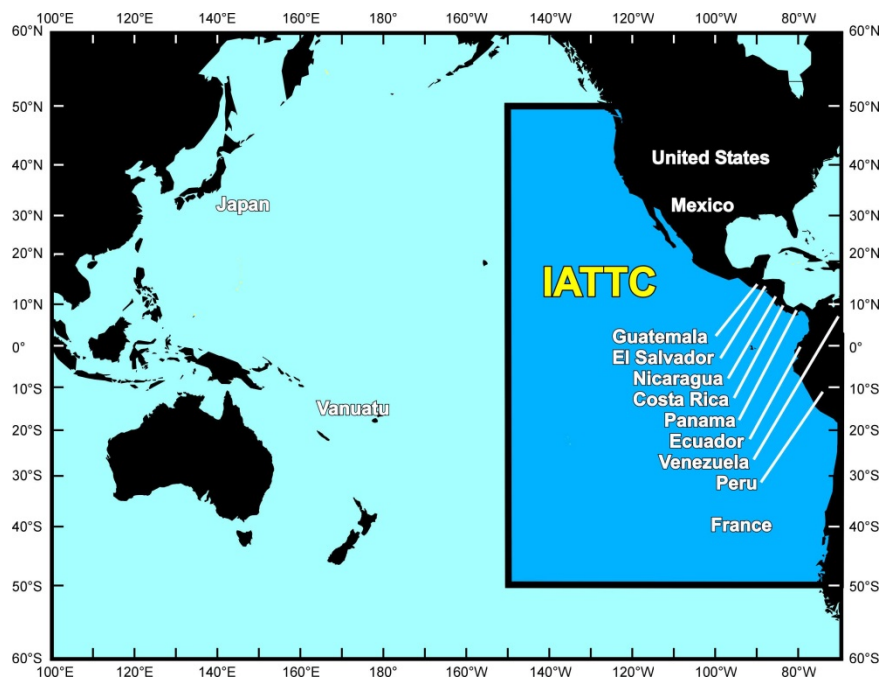


Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)



- SPC is primary science provider
- ISC science provider for “Northern” stocks
- Scientific Committee (SC) reviews stock assessments of non-“Northern” stocks. SSC equivalent
- Technical peer review process still being developed
- PIFSC have sent SPC assessments to CIE for desktop review

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

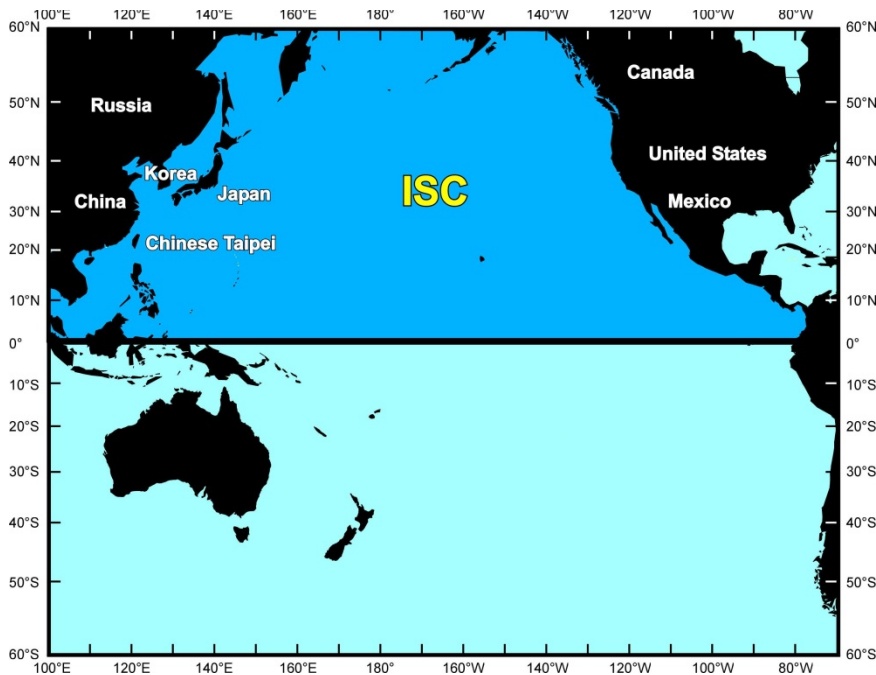


- IATTC staff scientists
- Collaborates with ISC on temperate stocks
- Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) reviews stock assessments. SSC equivalent
- Technical peer review process established. Advisory, non-binding review

International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species (ISC)



- Primary science provider for Northern Committee of WCPFC
- IATTC & SPC collaborates on working groups (WG)
- “Northern” stocks – **Pacific bluefin**, **albacore** & swordfish
- **Temperate sharks** & billfish
- WGs are most important “review” bodies
- ISC Plenary reviews and endorses WG products
- ISC technical peer review process still being developed
- SWFSC & PIFSC have sent assessments to CIE for desktop review



SC Terms of Reference

- Review assessments from SPC for tropical stocks and assessments from ISC for non-“Northern” stocks
- Develop conservation and management advice for WCPFC for non-“Northern” stocks
- Forward assessment results and management advice to WCPFC



ISC Plenary Terms of Reference

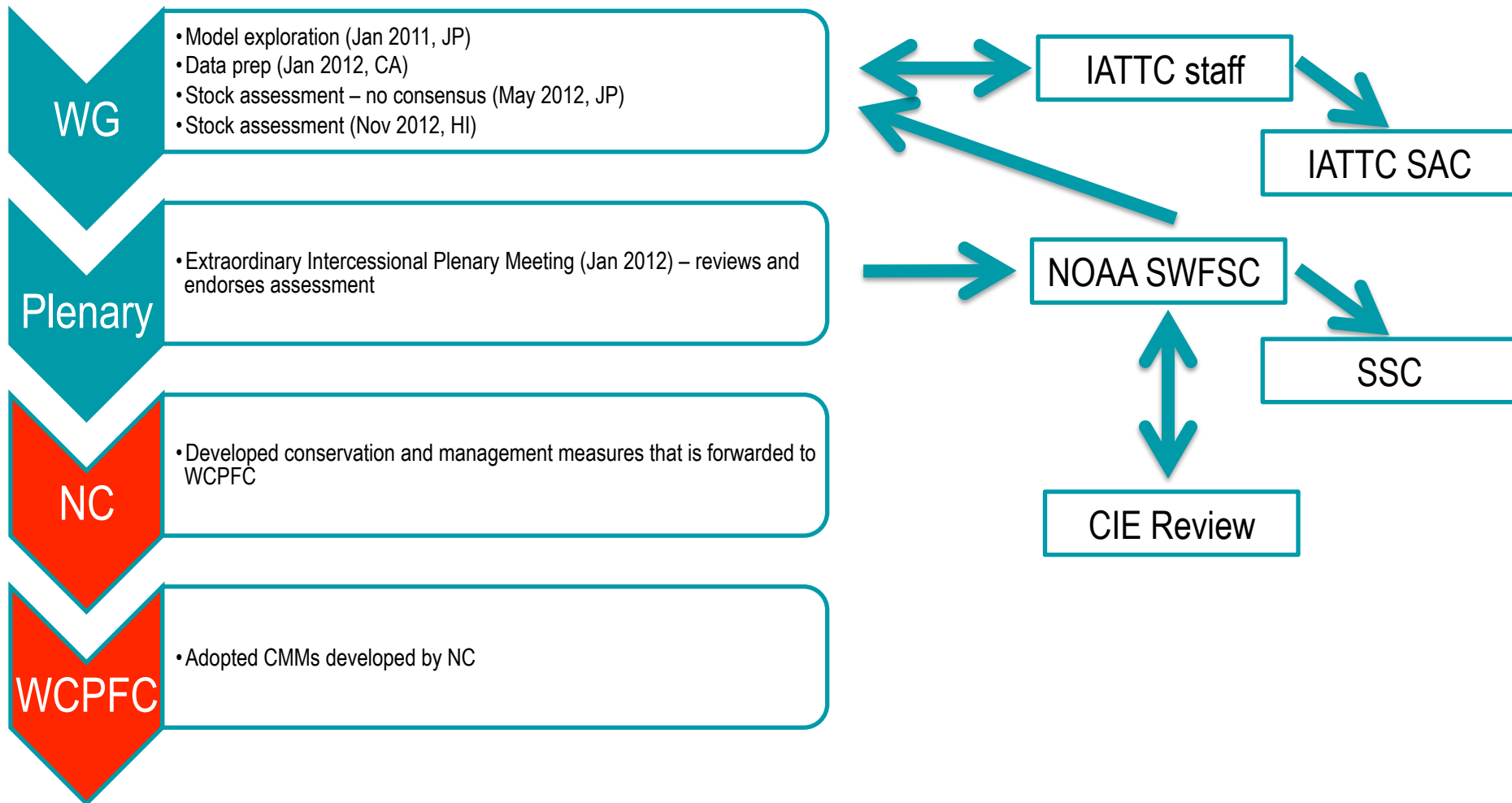
- Review and endorse assessments from WGs
- Develop conservation and management advice
- Forward assessment results and management advice to NC (international managers) for “Northern” stocks
- Forward assessment results to SC for non-“Northern” stocks



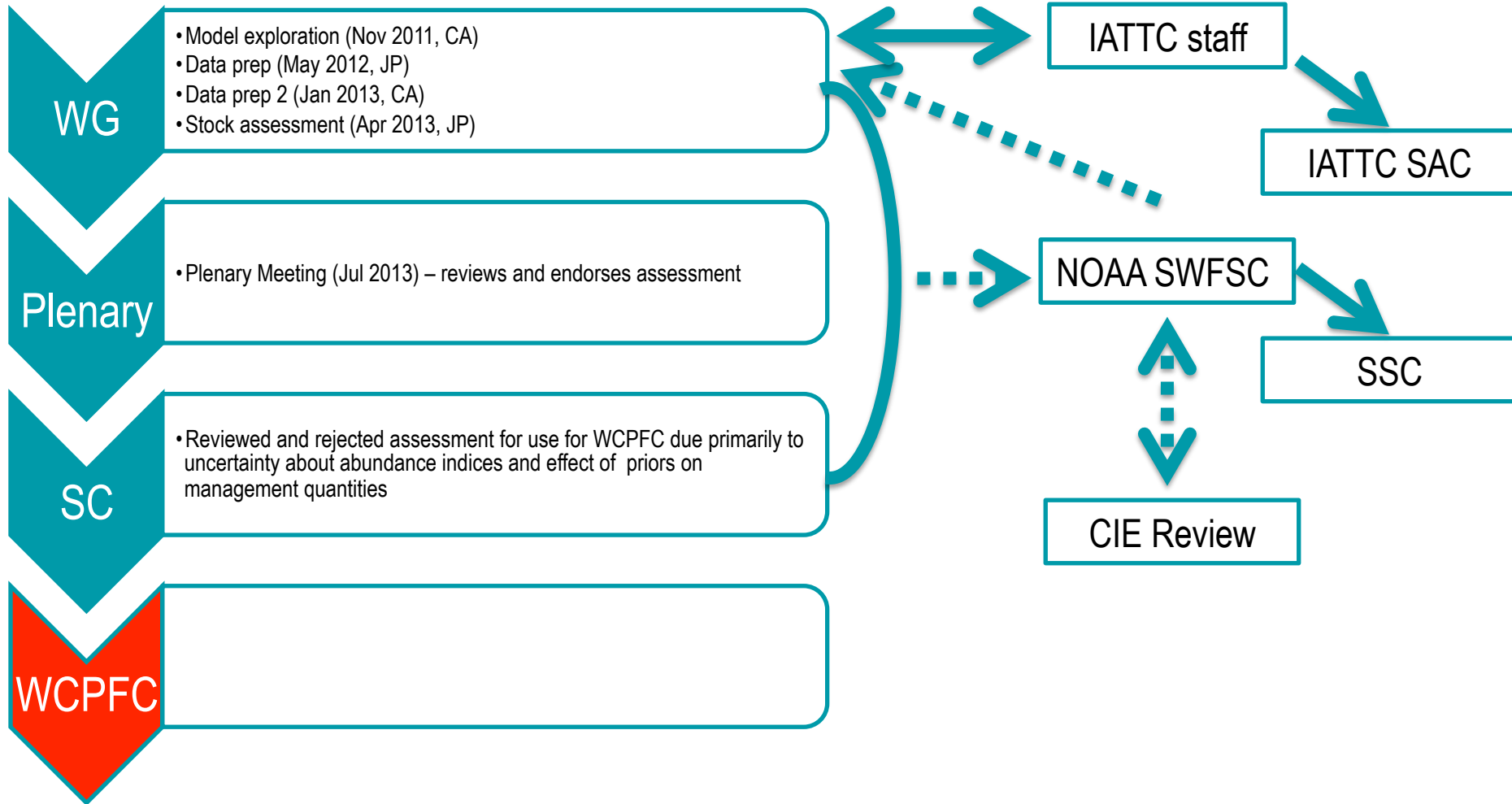
CIE Terms of Reference

- US domestic process
- Not a thumbs-up / thumbs down review in terms of suitability for management
- Not a review of assessment data
- Given available data, review assessment methods and models (e.g., configuration, assumptions, input parameters, sensitivities, uncertainty)
- Recommend improvements and future research

Pacific bluefin tuna – “Northern” stock



North Pacific blue shark – non-Northern



Strengths

- Collaborative and iterative WG process leads to a technical review of sorts but is non-independent

Challenges

- HMS stocks are mostly international so awkward to use or compare with US domestic review process
- Funding for technical reviews are highly limited
- Face to face reviews are preferable but difficult logistically so CIE desktop reviews used
- Technical review process, if developed, are advisory rather than thumbs up or thumbs down
- Reviews for management suitability are performed by mostly same assessment scientists or non-technical bodies

Strategies

- Development and funding for technical review process for ISC and other RFMO/science providers
- Invite outside assessment experts into WG stock assessment process (e.g., 2014 albacore assessment)
- Training for international scientists in modern statistical stock assessment methods (e.g., Mexico)
- Work to better separate science from policy in the assessment process
- Access to international raw data used for assessments

Questions?



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